

Walking With The Characters of Christmas
“Shepherds: Hope For Ones Farthest Away”

(Part 4)
Dec. 19th & 20th, 2009
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I. No One Is Too _____ for God

Luke 2:8-11 “That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!” (NLT)

A. The Shepherds were considered not worthy for God

B. Many people today consider themselves _____ for God

Rom. 5:8 “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (NLT)

Jer. 31:3 “Long ago the LORD said.... “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.” (NLT)

II. All Are Invited To Come and _____

Luke 2:12-14 “And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger. Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” (NLT)

A. The Shepherds were given an invitation to go and see for themselves

B. This invitation is still given to us today

Matt. 11:28-29 “Then Jesus said, “Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you... and you will find rest for your souls.” (NLT)

John 5:39-41 “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.” (NLT)

III. Jesus _____ Who Comes

Luke 2:15-20 "When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished...The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them." (NLT)

A. The Shepherds were changed men because they _____

B. We become changed people when we experience Jesus

II Cor. 5:17 "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (NLT)

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Page 2